21 October 2026

s 9(2)(a)

Your request

Thank you for your request to the Electricity Authority Te Mana Hiko (Authority), received on 10 September, under the Official Information Act 1982 (Act) for the following information:

> *I understand the Authority has issued a notice requiring Transpower to collect information on generation, energy storage and load developments proposing to connect to the national grid, and to provide that information to the Authority monthly. My request concerns that dataset and the Authority's use of it.*
>
> *Band A*
>
> *A copy of the notice referred to above, including any amendments or replacements.*
> *The monthly information returns provided to the Authority by Transpower under that notice, from the first return to the most recent, in the form in which they were received.*
>
> *Band B*
>
> *Any analysis, briefing, or advice prepared by or for the Authority since 1 January 2023 concerning electricity demand from data centres or other large single-site loads, including any assessment of how much of the enquiry pipeline is likely to proceed.*
>
> *Band C*
>
> *Any briefing, aide-memoire, or advice provided by the Authority to the Minister of Energy, or to MBIE, since 1 January 2023 concerning data centre or large single-site load connections.*
>
> *Band D*
>
> *The Authority's published or internal electricity demand forecasts, and any documents recording material revisions to those forecasts, for the period 1 January 2018 to the present.*

Our response

We understand the notice you are referring to is the notice issued to Transpower under clause 2.16 of the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 (Code), which is available here: Improving visibility of generation investment (clause 2.16 notice).

We address the parts of your request in turn.

Band A

A link to the notice you have requested is set out above and it is the current version.

Some of the information within scope of Band A of your request is publicly available as set out in the table below. It can be found either on:

- the Transpower website (the shaded sections in the table below) accessed here via this webpage Connections Management Framework stage, or
- elsewhere online, for example here (Datagrid) and here (Fast Track).

Project	Region	Capacity	Proponent	Connections management framework stage	Consent status
Datagrid Datacentre Park	Southland*	280MW*	Datagrid	Investigation	Consented
Dairy Flat Data Centre	Auckland				
Takanini 2x 33kV Feeders	Auckland	30MW	Vector Limited	Delivery	
Henderson 2 x 33 kV Feeders	Auckland	30MW	Vector Limited	Delivery	
	Auckland	150MW		Solution Proposal	
	Auckland	200MW		Application	

The remaining information within scope is withheld under section 18(1)(c)(i) of the Act which provides that a request can be refused if disclosing the information would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment. It is information provided by Transpower to the Authority under the clause 2.16 notice on a confidential basis. The Authority is required to keep this information confidential under clause 22.2(4) of the Code as the Authority is satisfied there are reasons for keeping the information confidential and that disclosure is not desirable to give effect to is statutory objectives or functions.

The Authority also considers disclosure of this information is contrary to an obligation of confidence and / or would unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of those who supplied or who are the subject of the information.

The Authority publishes a dashboard of the Generation investment pipeline, which can be accessed here: Generation investment pipeline | Electricity Authority

Band B

Appendix 1 contains information in scope of Band B of your request. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv), section 9(2)(g)(i), and section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered, free and frank opinion, and the privacy of natural persons, respectively.

The Authority has previously completed work regarding how applications for large loads (larger than 69kVA) and large distributed generation (larger than 10kW) are processed and approved/declined.

This was part of the Authority's Network Connections stage 1 project. The formal consultation papers, submissions received, and decision papers are located on our website: Network connections project – stage one | Our consultations | Our projects | Electricity Authority.

After the decision paper was released, the Authority completed a second technical consultation on the Code drafting only. This is publicly available here: Network connections project (stage one) technical consultation | Our consultations | Our projects | Electricity Authority.

Furthermore, minutes of the Technical Group that considered this work are also publicly available on our website: Network Connections Technical Group | Electricity Authority.

The Authority has work underway to unlock the potential of grid-scale batteries. Formal consultation papers, submissions received, and decision papers can be found on our website: Unlocking the benefits of battery energy storage systems | Our projects | Electricity Authority

The Authority has had initial discussions with its Common Quality Technical Group on the technical requirements of large loads connecting to the power system. Minutes of the meeting are publicly available on our website: Common Quality Technical Group | Electricity Authority

We attempted to contact you to refine aspects of your request concerning information on electricity demand from data centres or other large single-site loads since 2023 twice by email on 14 September and 21 September 2026. This was because the original Band B request, for any briefing, aide-memoire, or advice on both of these topics in the past three years, is large and could be refused under substantial collation grounds.

As we did not hear back from you to refine your request, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act (substantial collation or research).

Band C

Please find below in Appendix 1 the documents in scope of your request. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) and section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered and the privacy of natural persons.

The Authority publishes its fortnightly reports to the Minister on its website, these can be located here: Fortnightly reports | Electricity Authority

As with Band B above, we attempted to refine the scope of your request concerning electricity demand from data centres or other large single-site loads. However, we did not hear back from you. For this reason, this part of your request is also refused under section 18(f) of the Act.

Whilst not advice to the Minister, the materially large contract (MLC) provisions in the Code seek to prevent inefficient price discrimination, including for large load. The policy rationale for the MLC Code provisions was that a heavily discounted contract price benefits all generators by increasing the scarcity of electricity and thereby pushing up prices for other consumers. This can only happen with MLCs because of their scale, ie 150MW or greater. The MLC provisions of the Code define MLCs and prohibit them unless the generator can demonstrate that a MLC passes one of two tests:

(a) an economic test of whether the value of the MLC to the generator is greater than the value to the generator of its best alternative (net value test); or

(b) a legal test of whether the MLC allows electricity to be on-sold by the purchaser to a third party, on no worse terms than if the purchaser had consumed the relevant quantity itself (on-selling test).

The Authority has reviewed and updated the Materially Large Contract (MLC) provisions on three occasions, and this may be of interest to you. Information relating to the outcome of those reviews (including final Code change decisions) are available on the Authority's website:

- https://www.ea.govt.nz/documents/9904/EIPCA-26-0012.pdf
- https://www.ea.govt.nz/documents/9531/The_Restrictions_on_materially_large_contracts_2023_amendment_-_Certified_instrument_1.pdf
- https://www.ea.govt.nz/news/general-news/mlc-decision-papers-published/
- https://www.ea.govt.nz/news/general-news/permanent-code-amendment-for-materially-large-contracts/
- https://www.ea.govt.nz/documents/2553/Restrictions_on_materially_large_contracts_2023_-_Gazette_notice.pdf
- https://www.ea.govt.nz/documents/2544/Restrictions_on_materially_large_contracts_2023_amendment_-_Certified_instrument.pdf

The Authority also published information relating to MLC clearance decisions:

- https://www.ea.govt.nz/news/general-news/mercurys-mlc-clearance-decision/
- https://www.ea.govt.nz/news/press-release/electricity-authority-clears-mercury-contract/
- https://www.ea.govt.nz/news/press-release/electricity-authority-clears-meridian-and-contact-smelter-contracts/
- https://www.ea.govt.nz/news/press-release/electricity-authority-approves-meridian-clearance-application/

Band D

No documents were identified as being in scope of your request.

Information related to your request

I am satisfied, in terms of section 9(1) of the Act, that the need to withhold the information referred to above is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, the Authority may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All personal data, including your name and contact details, will be removed before publication.

If you'd like to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact us by emailing oia@ea.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā,



Airihi Mahuika
GM Legal, Monitoring and Compliance

Appendix 1

Item No	Date	Document Type	Title	Reference/ Notes	Release (withholding grounds noted where applicable)
1	*9 September 2026*	*Presentation*	*Hyperscale Data Centres - Board information sharing session*	*EA01*	*Released, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act*
2	-	*Document - Draft*	*DRAFT datacentres thinkpiece*	*EA02*	*Released, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act*
3	*30 January 2026*	*Document*	*260130 EXTRA MESSAGING - Data Centres - CE interview RNZ Nine to Noon*	*EA03*	*Released in full*
4	*19 August 2026*	*Presentation*	*20260819-CQTG 17- Large loads requirements update*	*EA04*	*Released in full*
5	*26 August 2026*	*Email chain*	*FW_ Discussion with AEMO on large loads*	*EA05*	*Released, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act*
6		*Document*	*response to MBIE re data centres*	*EA06*	*Released, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act*
7	*8 September 2026*	*Email chain*	*RE_ Expectations for data centres UNCLASSIFIED*	*EA07*	*Released, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act. Attachment withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act*